

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 EB-07
COME-00 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 OES-06
SP-02 /046 W

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R 171229Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4144
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PBOR IS JO SY
SUBJ: ISRAELI USE OF YARMUK RIVER WATER

REF: TEL AVIV 8213

1. THE DECEMBER 16 HAARETZ REPORTED FURTHER ON THE YARMUK/
GALILEE PROJECT. THE ARTICLE NOTED THE LAYING OF A 225
METER, 48 INCH DIAMETER, 60 TON PIPE IN THE SEA OF GALILEE
AS PART OF THE NEW PROJECT TO EXPLOIT THE SURPLUS OF YARMUK
WATER DURING THE WINTER TO REPLENISH THE SEA OF GALILEE.
DURING THE FIRST STAGE, 25 MILLION CUBIC METERS OF YARMUK
WATER WILL BE PUMPED TO THE SEA OF GALILEE. IN THE SECOND
STAGE, WHICH IS TO BE COMPLETED IN THE WINTER OF 1977-78,
SOME 40 MILLION CUBIC METERS WILL FLOW. INVESTMENT SO FAR
TOTALS IL 5 MILLION, WHILE ANOTHER IL 6 MILLION WILL BE
INVESTED IN THE SECOND STAGE.

2. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT THE PROJECT, DEPUTY WATER COMMISSIONER
ARLOSOROFF TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE 40 MCM IS SURPLUS
WATER WHICH NOW FLOWS INTO THE DEAD SEA. EVEN AFTER THE
BUILDING OF A MAQARIN DAM, HE SAID, THERE WOULD STILL BE THIS
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AMOUNT OF YARMUK WINTER WATER FLOWING TOWARD THE DEAD SEA, AS
LONG AS A DAM WAS NOT BUILT DOWNSTREAM FROM THE MAQARIN SITE.

3. COMMENT: ARLOSOROFF WAS RELUCTANT TO SAY MUCH ABOUT THIS
PROJECT AND WHAT HE DID SAY SEEMS INCONSISTENT WITH EARLIER
OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE YARMUK. ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAD TOLD US

PREVIOUSLY THAT A REDUCTION IN THE FLOW OF WATER TO THE DEAD
SEA WOULD LOWER THE LEVEL AND THUS ENDANGER ISRAEL'S POTASH
INDUSTRY AT THE LOWER END.
TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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